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# GAISFORD GREEK VERSE

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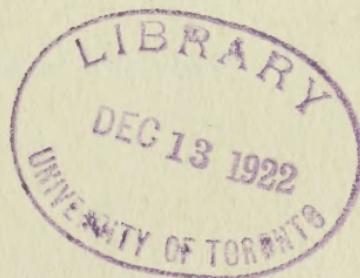
## A Midsummer-Night's Dream

ACT III, SCENE I

BY

R. G. C. LEVENS

SCHOLAR OF BALLIOL COLLEGE



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SHAKESPEARE

A MIDSUMMER-NIGHT'S DREAM

Act III, Scene 1, lines 1-148

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‘Bless thee, Bottom ! bless thee ! thou art translated.’

*Enter QUINCE, SNUG, BOTTOM, FLUTE, SNOUT, and STARVELING.*

*Bot.* Are we all met ?

*Quin.* Pat, pat ; and here's a marvellous convenient place for our rehearsal. This green plot shall be our stage, this hawthorn-brake our tiring-house ; and we will do it in action as we will do it before the duke.

*Bot.* Peter Quince,—

*Quin.* What sayst thou, bully Bottom ?

*Bot.* There are things in this comedy of Pyramus and Thisby that will never please. First, Pyramus must draw a sword to kill himself, which the ladies cannot abide. How answer you that ?

*Snout.* By 'r lakin, a parlous fear.

*Star.* I believe we must leave the killing out, when all is done.

*Bot.* Not a whit : I have a device to make all well. Write me a prologue ; and let the prologue seem to say, we will do no harm with our swords, and that Pyramus is not killed indeed ; and, for the more better assurance, tell them that I, Pyramus, am not Pyramus, but Bottom the weaver : this will put them out of fear.

ΠΡΩΚΤΟΣ — ΚΥΔΩΝΙΔΗΣ — ΑΤΛΙΣΚΟΣ —  
ΧΟΡΟΣ.

Πρ. Οἱ πάντες οὖν πάρεισι;

Κυ. πάντες νὴ Δία,

πρέπει θ' ὁ χῶρος πρὸς τὸ μελετᾶν πῶς δοκεῖς.  
σκηνὴ γὰρ ἡμῖν ἡ πόλι γενήσεται,  
ἐνσκευάσασθαι δ' ἦν θέλῃ τις, δεῦρ' ἵτω  
ἐς τὴν λόχμην· τὸ δράμα δ', ὥσπερ καὶ ποεῖν  
Θησέως παρόντος μέλλομεν, ποιητέον.

Πρ. ἀλλ' ὁ Κυδωνίδιον —

Κυ. τί φῆς, ὁ γεννάδα;

Πρ. ἐνεστίν ἀττ' ἐν τῇδε τῇ κωμῳδίᾳ  
ἀ πάντες ἀν μέμφουινθ'. ὁ μὲν γὰρ Πύραμος  
ἀπολῶν ἔαυτὸν τὴν μάχαιραν ἔλκεται,  
γυναιξὶν οὐκ ἀνεκτόν· εἶτα πῶς λέγεις;

Αὔ. νὴ τὴν κορίσκην, σχέτλιον ἀποφαίνεις φόβον.

Χο. ἐλλειπτέον τοι τοὺς φόνους ἀμωσγέπως.

Πρ. μὰ Δί' ἀλλ' ἐπίνοιαν τήνδ' ἔχω νουβυστικήν·  
πρόλογον σύ μοι σύγγραψον, ὅστις σημανεῖ  
ώς ταῖς μαχαίραις οὐδὲν ἀδικοῦμεν πάνυ,  
ὁ Πύραμος δ' οὐκ ἐτεὸν ὥδ' ἀπώλετο.  
καὶ προσθέεις, ἵνα τὸ πρᾶγμα πιστότερον φαιῇ,  
“ ὁ Πύραμος δ' οὐκ ἐστὶν ὄντως Πύραμος,  
μὰ Δί' ἀλλὰ Πρωκτός, σκυτοτόμος ὃν τὴν τέχνην ”.  
σάφ' ἴσθι, παύσει ταυταγὶ φοβουμένας.

*Quin.* Well, we will have such a prologue, and it shall be written in eight and six.

*Bot.* No, make it two more : let it be written in eight and eight.

*Snout.* Will not the ladies be afear'd of the lion ?

*Star.* I fear it, I promise you.

*Bot.* Masters, you ought to consider with yourselves : to bring in,—God shield us!—a lion among ladies, is a most dreadful thing ; for there is not a more fearful wild-fowl than your lion living, and we ought to look to it.

*Snout.* Therefore another prologue must tell he is not a lion.

*Bot.* Nay, you must name his name, and half his face must be seen through the lion's neck ; and he himself must speak through, saying thus, or to the same defect, 'Ladies,' or, 'Fair ladies,' 'I would wish you,' or, 'I would request you,' or, 'I would entreat you, not to fear, not to tremble: my life for yours. If you think I come hither as a lion, it were pity of my life : no, I am no such thing : I am a man as other men are ;' and there indeed let him name his name, and tell them plainly he is Snug the joiner.

*Quin.* Well, it shall be so. But there is two hard things ; that is, to bring the moonlight into a chamber ; for, you know, Pyramus and Thisby meet by moonlight.

*Snug.* Doth the moon shine that night we play our play ?

*Κυ.* πρόλογος ἄρ' ἔσται, καὶ τριμέτροις γεγράψεται.

*Πρ.* ἐνός γε καὶ δεῦ τετραμέτροις μᾶλλον γράφου.

*Αὐ.* τὰς δ' οὖν γυναικας οὐ φοβήσει χώ λέων;

*Χο.* δέδοικα νὴ Δί—

*Πρ.* ωγαθοὶ φροντίζετε·

τὸ γὰρ λέοντα παρὰ γυναικας εἰσάγειν —

Ἄπολλον ἀποτρόπαι', ἀτεχνῶς ὑπερφυές·

ώς τῶν πετεινῶν ἔστι τῶν ἄλλων πολὺ

δεινότατος ὁ λέων· τοῦτο δὴ προσκεπτέον.

*Αὐ.* οὐκοῦν διδάξει πρόλογος ἄλλος ώς λέων

οὐκ ἔστιν—

*Πρ.* ἀλλ' ὅπως ἐπονομασθήσεται,

καὶ τοῦ προσώπου γ' ἐκκαλύψας θῆμισυ

διὰ τῆς λεοντῆς, ταῦτα παρακόψας ἐρεῖ·

“φίλαι γυναικες” ἢ “γυναικες πάγκαλαι,

θέλοιμ’ ἀν” ἢ “χρῆζοιμ’ ἀν” ἢ καὶ “λίσσομαι

θαρρεῖν ἀπάσας, μηδ’ ὑπὸ τοῦ δέους τρέμειν.

ὅμηρον ἔχετέ μ'. εἰ γὰρ ώς φύσει λέων

ῆκοιμι, τοῦ ζῆν οὐκ ἀν εἴην ἀξιος.

οὐκ ἔστι ταῦτ', ἀλλ' εἰμὶ καθάπερ ἄτεροι

ἄνθρωπος.” ὄνομα δ' ἀγγελεῖ, φράξων ἀπλῶς

ώς οὐ λέων ὅδ, ἀλλ' ὁ τέκτων Γώνιος.

*Κυ.* ἔστω τάδ· ἀλλ' ἔτ' ἄπορα λείπεται δύο·

τὸ μὲν εἰς τὸν οἶκον φῶς σελήνης εἰσάγειν·

τὸν Πύραμον γὰρ φασὶ τῇ Θίσβῃ τότε

ἐν πανσελήνῳ τὴν συνουσίαν ποιεῖν.

*Αὐ.* ὥρα δὲ πανσέληνος ἡ τοῦ δράματος;

*Bot.* A calendar, a calendar ! look in the almanack ;  
find out moonshine, find out moonshine.

*Quin.* Yes, it doth shine that night.

*Bot.* Why, then may you leave a casement of the  
great chamber-window, where we play, open ; and the  
moon may shine in at the casement.

*Quin.* Ay ; or else one must come in with a bush of  
thorns and a lanthorn, and say he comes to disfigure, or  
to present, the person of Moonshine. Then, there is  
another thing : we must have a wall in the great cham-  
ber ; for Pyramus and Thisby, says the story, did talk  
through the chink of a wall.

*Snug.* You can never bring in a wall. What say  
you, Bottom ?

*Bot.* Some man or other must present Wall ; and  
let him have some plaster, or some loam, or some rough-  
cast about him, to signify wall ; and let him hold his  
fingers thus, and through that cranny shall Pyramus and  
Thisby whisper.

*Quin.* If that may be, then all is well. Come, sit  
down, every mother's son, and rehearse your parts.  
Pyramus, you begin : when you have spoken your  
speech, enter into that brake ; and so every one according  
to his cue.

*Enter PUCK, behind.*

*Puck.* What hempen home-spuns have we swagger-  
ing here,

So near the cradle of the fairy queen ?

*Πρ.* τίς ἀστρονομικός; ἐξέτασον τὰ βιβλία.  
φέρε δή, τίς ἀνύστας τὴν σελήνην μοι φανεῖ;  
*Κυ.* ἔγωγε πανσέληνος οὖσα τυγχάνει.  
*Πρ.* οὐκοῦν ἀνοίξεις τὴν θυρίδα τοῦ δώματος  
ἐν φῷ τὸ θέατρον, ὥστε διαλάμπειν τὸ φῶς.  
*Κυ.* εὖγ'· ἡ φερέτω τις ἀσπαλάθους καὶ λαμπάδα,  
καὶ τὴν σελήνην εἰσάγειν γῆκισμένην  
φάτω παρελθών. τοῦτο δ' αὖ τὸ δεύτερον,  
ὡς ἐσ τὸ δῶμα δεῖ κομίζειν τειχίον·  
δὸς Πύραμος γὰρ ἡ τε Θίσβη τειχίου  
λαλοῦντ' ἔχρησθον, ως ὁ λόγος, τρυπήματι.  
*Αὐ.* ἀλλ' οὐδέποτ' ἄν τις τειχίον γ' ἄν εἰσφέροι.  
ὦ Πρώκτ', ἔχεις τι;

*Πρ.* τείχιον μιμήσεται  
τῶν ὑποκριτῶν τις, πηλὸν ἡ πλίνθους ἔχων  
ἡ χάλικα τὴν ἐσθῆτα καταπεπασμένος,  
τοῦ τειχίου σημεῖον· δὸς μὲν οὖν τὴν χέρα  
ώδι παρέξει, τὼ δὲ παρὰ τοὺς δακτύλους  
ἐντρυλλιεῖτον ώσπερεὶ διὰ τρήματος.

*Κυ.* χωρεῖ τὰ πράγματ', εἴπερ εὖ καὶ τοῦτ' ἔχει.  
ἄγε δὴ κάθησθε καὶ μελετᾶτε τοὺς στίχους  
ἀπαξάπαντες. Πύραμ', ἅρξαι τῶν λόγων,  
ἔπειτα λέξας ὑπαγε δεῦρ' ἐσ τὴν λόχμην,  
καὶ πάντες ἀκολουθεῖτε κατὰ τὸ βιβλίον.

### ΕΡΩΣ.

τίνεις ποτ' ἄνδρες ἀμνοκῶντες καὶ παχεῖς  
θείας χαμεύνης ὥδε σαυλοῦνται πέλας;

What, a play toward ! I'll be an auditor ;  
An actor too perhaps, if I see cause.

*Quin.* Speak, Pyramus.—Thisby, stand forth.

*Bot.* Thisby, the flowers have odious savours sweet,—

*Quin.* Odorous, odorous.

*Bot.*—odours savours sweet :

*So hath thy breath, my dearest Thisby dear.*

*But hark, a voice ! stay thou but here awhile,*

*And by and by I will to thee appear.*

[Exit.]

*Puck.* A stranger Pyramus than e'er play'd here !

*Flu.* Must I speak now ?

[Exit.]

*Quin.* Ay, marry, must you ; for you must understand, he goes but to see a noise that he heard, and is to come again.

*Flu.* Most radiant Pyramus, most lily-white of hue,  
Of colour like the red rose on triumphant brier,  
Most brisky juvenal, and eke most lovely Few,  
As true as truest horse that yet would never tire,  
I'll meet thee, Pyramus, at Ninny's tomb.

*Quin.* ‘Ninus’ tomb,’ man. Why, you must not speak that yet ; that you answer to Pyramus : you speak all your part at once, cues and all. Pyramus, enter : your cue is past ; it is ‘never tire.’

μῶν δρᾶμα τουτί; φέρε θεάσωμαι λαθών,  
ἢ καὶ μετασχῶ γ', ἦν τι κωμῳδεῖν δοκῆ.

*Κυ.* Πύραμε, λέγοις ἄν· καὶ σύ, Θίσβη, δεῦρ' ἄγε.

*Πρ.* πνοὴ μὲν ἀνθῶν ἡ δυσοσμοτάτη κλύει—

*Κυ.* ἔα· οὐκ ἡδύοσμος;

*Πρ.* —ἡδύοσμοτάτη κλύει,  
ἢ σὴ δ' ἄρ' ὥφελ' ὁ φίλον Θίσβης κάρα.  
ἀλλ' ἥσθόμην γὰρ φθέγμα, μεῖνον ἐνθάδε,  
ἔγὼ δέ σοι τούντεῦθεν ἐκφανήσομαι.

*Ἐρ.* ἀτοπώτατός γε τῶν πρὸν ὄντων Πυράμων.

*Αὐ.* νῦν δεῖ μ' ἀγορεύειν;

*Κυ.* νὴ τὸν Ἀπόλλω δεῖ σέ γε  
νυνί· ψόφον γὰρ ὁψόμενος, δν ἥσθετο,  
ἀπῆλθε, καὶ σάφ' ἵσθι νοστήσει πάλιν.

*Αὐ.* ὁ καλλίφεγγες Πύραμ', ὁ λευκόπτερε,  
ὁ τὴν χρόαν οἰνωπός, οἴαπερ ρόδα  
ἀγάλλεται 'ν φάμνοισιν, ὁ στιβαρώτατε  
νεανιῶν, καὶ Νανιδῶν ἐρατώτατε,  
πίσθ' ὕσπερ ἵππος, ὃς γε μὴ κάμοι ποτέ,  
πόδα σοὶ ξυνάψω πρὸς τάφοις Εύηθιδοῦ.

*Κυ.* Εὔελπιδοῦ τόδ', ὁ μέλ'. οὐ μὴ ταῦτ' ἐρεῖς,  
ἀλλ' ὕστερόν ποτ' ἀποκρινεῖ τῷ Πυράμῳ;  
νῦν γὰρ συνείρεις πολύ τι χρῆμα ρήσεων  
καὶ τόνδ' ἐρεῖν μέλλοντα περιορᾶς πάνυ.  
ὁ Πύραμος παρελθέ· τῆς γὰρ ἐσβολῆς  
ἥμαρτες ἥδη, μετὰ τὸ “μὴ κάμοι ποτέ”.

*Flu.* O!—As true as truest horse, that yet would never tire.

*Re-enter PUCK, and BOTTOM with an ass's head.*

*Bot.* If I were, fair Thisby, I were only thine.

*Quin.* O monstrous! O strange! we are haunted.

Pray, masters! fly, masters!—Help! [Exeunt Clowns.

*Puck.* I'll follow you, I'll lead you about a round,

Through bog, through bush, through brake, through brier:

Sometime a horse I'll be, sometime a hound,

A hog, a headless bear, sometime a fire;

And neigh, and bark, and grunt, and roar, and burn,

Like horse, hound, hog, bear, fire, at every turn. [Exit.

*Bot.* Why do they run away? this is a knavery of them to make me afeard.

*Re-enter SNOUT.*

*Snout.* O Bottom, thou art changed! what do I see on thee?

*Bot.* What do you see? you see an ass-head of your own, do you? [Exit SNOUT.

*Re-enter QUINCE.*

*Quin.* Bless thee, Bottom! bless thee! thou art translated. [Exit.

*Bot.* I see their knavery: this is to make an ass of me; to fright me, if they could. But I will not stir from this place, do what they can: I will walk up and down here, and I will sing, that they shall hear I am not afraid.

Αὐ. εἶεν·

πίσθ' ὥσπερ ἵππος, ὃς γε μὴ κάμοι ποτέ.

Πρ. ἐν σοί γ' ἀν εἴην, πιστὸς ὅν, Θίσβη, μόνη.

Κυ. ὁ φοβερόν, ὁ θαυμάσιον, ὁ θεῖον τέρας.

ἰοὺ ἰού·

εὔχεσθε, φεύγετ', ἀποδιδράσκετ', ώγαθοί.

Ἐρ. ἄγε νῦν τούτοισιν διαφοιτῶντάς τε κυκήσω  
διὰ τέλμα λόχμην δρυμὸν ἀκάνθας, τοτὲ μὲν μορφὴν  
κυνὸς ἐνδύς,

τοτὲ δ' αὖ πῶλος, τοτὲ χοιρίον ὅν, ἄρκτος τε καρά-  
τομος ἢ πῦρ,

εἰθ' ἀμ' ὑλακτῶν ἢ χρεμετίζων, γρύζων βρυχώμενος  
αιθων

ώς κύνα πῶλον χοιρίον ἄρκτον πῦρ ἐκμιμούμενος ἔξῆς.

Πρ. τί δὰ παθόντες ἀποτρέχουσι; μῶν ἄρα  
ῳδ' οἱ κόβαλοι καταφοβῆσαι μ' ἥλπισαν;

Αὐ. ὁ Πρωκτέ, δεινῶς εἶ μετεσκευασμένος.

τί σ' ἔχονθ' ὄρῳ;

Πρ. μὰ Δί' οὐδέν, ἀλλ' ὅνον σκιάν.

Κυ. ὁ δαιμόνι ἀνδρῶν, ως φύσιν μετήλλαχας.

Πρ. ὄρῳ τὸ σόφισμα· μορμολύτεσθαι μ' ἄρα  
ἔμελλον, εἰ δύναιντο γ'. ἄττ' ἀν οὖν δοκῆ  
δρώντων· ἐγὼ δ' οὐχ ως ὅνος καθήσομαι  
λύρας ἀπωθεν, ἀλλὰ πάντως ἐνθαδὶ<sup>1</sup>  
μενῶ, μελωδῶν περιπατῶν τ' ἀνω κάτω,  
αὐτοῖς δ' ἄρ' ἔσομαι δῆλος ὅτι θαρρῶ πάνυ.

The ousel-cock, so black of hue,  
With orange-tawny bill,  
The throstle with his note so true,  
The wren with little quill,—

*Tita.* [Awaking.] What angel wakes me from my flowery bed ?

*Bot.* The finch, the sparrow, and the lark,  
The plain-song cuckoo gray,  
Whose note full many a man doth mark,  
And dares not answer, nay ;

for indeed, who would set his wit to so foolish a bird ?  
who would give a bird the lie, though he cry ‘cuckoo’  
never so ?

*Tita.* I pray thee, gentle mortal, sing again:  
Mine ear is much enamour’d of thy note ;  
So is mine eye enthralled to thy shape ;  
And thy fair virtue’s force perforce doth move me  
On the first view, to say, to swear, I love thee.

κόψιχ' ὁ μελανοπτερὺξ  
ῥάμφος πυρρὸν ὄμως ἔχων,  
εὐηχέσ τε μέλος κίχλη,  
λεπτόν τ' ὄρχιλ' ἀείδων,—

### ΑΦΡΟΔΙΤΗ.

τίς θεὸς ἐγείρει μ' ἀνθεμώδους ἐκ λέχους ;

Πρ.        ω στρούθ', ω κόρυδ', ω σπίν', ω  
κόκκυξ γλαῦκε νόμους ἀπλῶς  
ἰείς, οὓς θαμά τις κλύων  
ἀρνεῖσθαι πόσις ὄκνεῖ.

τίς γὰρ φράσαιτ' ἀν ἡλίθιον τόδ' ὅρνεον;

τίς ἀν ἀνταγορεύοι, κοκκύσαντι καὶ μακρά ;

Ἀφ. θυητοῦ δέμας γενναῖον, ἀσόν μοι πάλιν.  
τὰ μὲν γὰρ ὅτα σῶν ἐπιτέθυμμαι μελῶν,  
τὰ δ' ὄμμαθ' ἡττων εἰμὶ τῆς εὔμορφίας.  
τῆς σῆς δ' ὅτ' ἀρετῆς εἶδον ἴσχυρὰν χάριν  
ἡλῶν κατ' ἴσχύν, καὶ μᾶς ἀπ' ὅψεως  
ἢ μὴν ἐρᾶν σοῦ φημί, καπόμνυμί γε.

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